

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A winding machine, comprising:

a frame including a barrel positioned on the frame;

at least two spindles fastened to the barrel, each of the spindles being configured to support at least one cake and to be movable in rotation about a first axis substantially perpendicular to a diameter of the cake;

a thread drawer including at least two motor-driven rollers configured to hold at least one thread at a first position before the thread is attached to any of the at least two spindles, the rollers being fastened to the frame of the winding machine at a position directly below the at least two spindles;

a straight ejector positioned above the at least two spindles and configured to move the thread from the first position to a second position such that the thread is attached to one of the spindles;

at least one positioning and guidance device configured to position and guide the at least one thread on the spindles;

a linear actuator configured to continuously drive the spindles linearly in forward and reverse directions along the first axis during winding of the at least one thread; [[and]]

a thread retraction device positioned above the at least one positioning and guidance device and configured to displace the at least one thread by grasping the thread and rotating between the second position, in which the at least one thread is attached to the one of the spindles and retracted from the positioning and guidance device, and a third position, in which the at least one thread is engaged with the positioning and guidance device[[,]]; and

a control and command device to regulate speed and/or position between a primary stroke movement of the positioning and guidance device and a secondary stroke movement of at least one of the spindles,

wherein the barrel is mounted movably in rotation with respect to the frame along a third axis of rotation substantially parallel to the first axis.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The winding machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein the frame cooperates with the barrel by an indexing device configured to control a position of the barrel with respect to the frame.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The winding machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein the positioning and guidance device includes at least one helix mounted movably in rotation about a second axis, substantially parallel to the first axis.

Claims 15-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The winding machine as claimed in claim 12, further comprising an indexing device configured to modify continuously an angular position of the barrel with respect to the frame as a function of a variation in outside diameter of the cake, to keep a path of the thread constant between its exit point from the positioning and guidance device and its contact point on a periphery of the cake.

Claims 18-22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A method for winding cakes, comprising:

positioning a first spindle and a second spindle on a barrel located within a frame;

rotating the barrel so that the first spindle is in a thread receiving position;

holding at least one thread at a first position with rollers before the thread is attached to the first spindle or the second spindle, the rollers being fastened to the frame of the winding machine at a position directly below the first spindle and the second spindle;

moving the thread from the first position to a second position with a straight ejector positioned above the first spindle and the second spindle such that the thread is attached to the first spindle;

grasping the thread with a thread retraction device positioned above a positioning and guidance device and rotating the thread retraction device grasping the thread between the second position, in which the thread is attached to the first spindle and retracted from the positioning and guidance device, and a third position, in which the thread is engaged with the positioning and guidance device;

rotating the first spindle having the thread attached thereto around a first axis;

guiding and positioning the thread onto the spindle with the positioning and guidance device;

driving continuously the first spindle linearly in forward and reverse directions along the first axis while the first spindle is in the thread receiving position; [[and]]

regulating speed and/or position between a primary stroke movement of the positioning and guidance device and a secondary stroke movement of at least one of the spindles; and

after the driving the first spindle linearly in the forward and reverse directions, rotating the barrel so that the second spindle is in the thread receiving position.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method for winding cakes as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

modifying continuously an angular position of the barrel with respect to the frame as a function of a variation in an outside diameter of a cake formed on the first spindle, to keep a path of the thread constant between its exit point from the positioning and guidance device and its contact point on a periphery of the cake.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The winding machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein the thread overlaps a distal end of the one of the spindles when the thread is held at the first position.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method for winding cakes as claimed in claim 23, wherein the thread overlaps a distal end of the first spindle when the thread is held at the first position.